

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJ: ARNOLD CALL ON MFA 6TH DEPARTMENT HEAD ZANTOVSKY

1. DURING A RECENT VISIT TO PRAGUE, USIA DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IEU, PHILIP W. ARNOLD, CALLED ON J. ZANTOVSKY, HEAD OF MFA 6TH DEPARTMENT, IN CHARGE OF US, CANADA, AND GREAT BRITAIN, IN COMPANY OF CHARGE AND PAO.

2. MFA RECEPTION WAS CORDIAL. ZANTOVSKY STRESSED THAT, DESPITE REGRETS ON CURRENT STATUS OF CLAIMS AGREEMENT--TRADE BILL QUESTIONS, GOC WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AHEAD ON NORMALIZING CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, AND THAT FEB. 26 INITIAL SESSION OF GOC-US "EXPERT DELEGATION," IN GOC VIEW, WENT WELL. ARNOLD STRESSED US INTEREST IN HAVING BALANCE IN EXCHANGES BETWEEN HARD SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES-HUMANITIES, WITH ROUGH PARITY BETWEEN THESE TWO CATEGORIES. ZANTOVSKY SAID HE DIDN'T SEE THIS AS A PROBLEM, AS LONG AS BOTH SIDES PRAGMATICALLY AGREED UPON PROGRAMS THAT HAD ADVANTAGES FOR BOTH SIDES.

3. ARNOLD ALSO MADE POINT THAT VOA IS THE BROADCAST ARM OF THE USG AND THAT IT IS A PART OF USIA. SAID OUR AUTHORIZING VISA TO CTK WRITER V. TILL WAS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL ON US PART AND THAT SOMETIME IN FUTURE A VOA CORRESPONDENT WOULD APPLY FOR VISA FOR COVERAGE OF APPROPRIATE EVENTS IN PRAGUE. ZANTOVSKY SAID THAT LIKE US, GOC SOUGHT TO AVOID A "VISA WAR," AND THAT HE THOUGH GOC HAS BEEN QUITE RESPONSIVE ON PRESS QUESTIONS WITH RECENT VISAS TO NYTIMES, CSMONITOR, WPOST, TIME AND LATIMES JOURNALISTS. HE DID NOT DIRECTLY REPLY TO POINT

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INVOLVING VOA CORRESPONDENT.

4. GENERAL TONE OF MEETING WAS POSITIVE, WITH GOC GIVING
DISTINCT IMPRESSION IT WANTS TO MOVE AHEAD ON THE EXCHANGES
QUESTION WITH DELIBERATE SPEED. PERRY

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